

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



Vol. 49, No. 11

www.laughlin.af.mil

March 23, 2001

the inside Scoop...

Service before self:

The AETC commander explains how good customer service greatly improves quality of life for Air Force members...

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Recruiter myth:

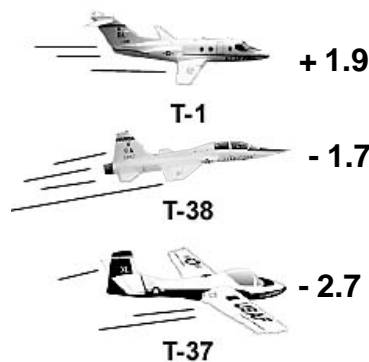
The AFRS commander explains how the myth "recruiters eat their own" is false...

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Mission status

(As of Tuesday)

Days ahead(+) or behind(-)



Fiscal Year 2001 statistics

--Sorties flown: 29,716
--Hours flown: 44,397.4
--Pilot wings earned in FY 01: 136
--Wings earned since 1963: 11,844

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Airman pleads guilty at base court-martial

By Capt. Lucy H. Carrillo

47th Flying Training Wing Legal Office

An airman assigned to the 47th Communications Squadron pled guilty March 14 to one charge of violating Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice in a special court-martial.

A military judge found the airman guilty of wrongful use of cocaine and sentenced him to a bad-conduct discharge, two and a half months confinement, and reduction to airman basic.

The airman's cocaine use was detected during a random urinalysis test in December. The airman admitted to the military judge that he had been in a bar drinking where he bought \$40 worth of cocaine from a friend, and then used it. His cocaine use was several days before he tested positive during the urinalysis testing.

The airman told the military judge he was sorry he had ever used cocaine and felt he had let down his family, unit, the Air Force and himself. He told the judge that the time he had been in the Air Force was the best time of his life, and he had accomplished a lot and had many aspirations. The airman was just a few credits short of getting his bachelor's

See 'Court-martial,' page 5



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

For example

Staff Sgt. Eric Maye, Aerospace Physiology NCOIC of maintenance, takes a pointer from Senior Master Sgt. Rolland Roth, security forces manager, 47th Security Forces Squadron, during the NCO Mentorship Seminar Tuesday. The purpose of the seminar is to help staff sergeants enhance and refresh their leadership skills through group interaction and discussion.

President Bush tours Tyndall facilities

By Tech Sgt. Sean E. Cobbs

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — President George W. Bush paid his first official visit to an Air Force installation as president here Monday. During the visit, he toured base facilities and discussed the defense budget and quality-of-life issues with Air Force members and their families.

The president made it clear that better housing for military members is

a priority. "I want to see that people are well housed in the military," he told a group of Air Force members and their families who talked with him at the Tyndall AFB Youth Center.

While taking time to visit the home of Senior Airman Donnie Bryant, a 325th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal equipment section worker, the president addressed some of the airman's concerns about older housing units.

"That is one of the reasons I have

come to your house," President Bush told Airman Bryant. "I look forward to working with your Air Force commanders and base commanders to refurbish housing and build new housing. This way our troops will be able to have their families well taken care of."

Another subject President Bush addressed was a pay raise for military members and its place in his defense budget. "One part of the budget I

See 'Visit,' page 5

Commander's Corner

Doing what's right: simple concept, but hard to define

By Lt. Col. Al Poerner
47th Civil Engineer Squadron

I have a problem I hope you all can help me with. I am having some trouble "doing what's right." Sounds like it should be easy, right? Then why is it so hard for me, and others, to do?

I believe I understand what's right, but I've come across several people lately who seem to differ with my right. Therefore, my problem must be that my right is not their right! Being an honor-

ary engineer and tending to look at things in a logical fashion (probably not the right thing to do), let's look for the right "right." All right?

I think the right place to start looking for what's right is right in front of our noses. The Air Force identifies three core values all Air Force members should follow: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. As a whole, we all seem to follow Excellence in All We Do really well. Everywhere you look, you see a team filled with dedicated people who want to and achieve the best results they can, in spite of being

undermanned and with limited resources.

Service Before Self. Again I would say Air Force members do a pretty good job following this value. Every day, we hear and see the thousands of folks who are sent overseas to remote and dangerous locales, work 12-14 hour days, and miss birthdays, anniversaries, and other family events. Hooah to all those folks – they definitely have the right stuff!

Integrity First. Good ol' Webster's defines integrity as "firm adherence to a code or standard of values." I think my problem lies right there. For me, firm adherence means to do the same thing no matter the situation or who's watching. "Code or standard of values" means a set of rules or established guidance. Using those meanings I think I see the problem of the rights not aligning.

While I tend to follow the rules (whether I like them or not) and do my darndest to adhere to them (no matter who asks), I see the majority of people not doing the same. I find more and more cases where people pick and choose what rules they want to follow and when to follow them depending on how the results may benefit them, or their chances of getting caught breaking the rules. A perfect example of this way of thinking is not Air

See 'Right,' page 3

AETC Customer Service Initiative boosts quality of life



By Gen.
Hal Hornburg
AETC commander

RANDOLPH
AIR FORCE BASE
– If I get poor service in a restaurant or store, I don't feel valued as a customer.

So I don't go back. And I doubt you would, either.

But on an Air Force base, we don't always have that luxury. If you've ever visited a base customer service section only to find it closed



for lunch – or if you've been tangled in an endless loop of recorded voice mail messages – you probably don't feel valued as a customer as well.

Customer service – both good and bad – affects our quality of life.

The phrase "quality of life" can mean different things to each of us. While many of us might view higher pay and better facilities as the most common quality-of-life factors, the concept is much broader and really impacts our daily work environment. "Quality of life" begins with who you are, where you work and how you feel about what you do. It is a sense of identity and belonging. And that's the foundation from which we must

build a strong Air Force.

Our day-to-day interactions with people have significant impact on quality of life. Top-notch customer service in all aspects of our work and home life is crucial to maintaining high quality of life throughout AETC.

We produce highly trained and motivated airmen for the world's most capable aerospace force. All of our people deserve unparalleled customer service and support so we can focus our efforts on replenishing the combat capability of Air Force units around the globe.

With that in mind, we've recently begun a command initiative called "Service-Way" that I believe will

strengthen the quality of life for all of our people.

I want every office to examine the support they provide their customers. More than just items on a checklist, customer-oriented service should be ingrained in what we do.

We need to examine closely our responsiveness, timeliness and empathy in dealing with the day-to-day issues of military life. Whether you process claims for PCS moves, make appointments at the dental clinic or answer questions about pay and allowances at the accounting and finance office, you affect the quality

See 'Service,' page 3

Col. Jack Egginton
Commander
1st Lt. Dawnita Parkinson
Public affairs chief
Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit
Editor

The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air

Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, Ext. 5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to:
bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil or
reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil

"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."

– 47 FTW motto

AFRS commander dispels 'recruiters eat their own' myth

By Brig. Gen. Duane Deal

Air Force Recruiting Service commander

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — In today's market place, Air Force recruiters operate under different conditions, evaluation systems and rules from those of the past.

Some people are under the impression that a recruiter's enlisted performance report is solely based on making recruiting goals. While it was once true, this simply isn't the case anymore — by command policy.

The evaluation system is designed to look at the whole person, the person's use of recruiting tools and personal initiative. Their efforts to achieve their set goals are really what get evaluated.

While Air Force Personnel Center data indi-

cates EPR ratings for recruiters used to be lower than the rest of the Air Force, recent policies have reversed that. As a matter of fact, our ratings are now actually much better than the Air Force average — which you'd expect from the highly skilled, motivated recruiting force we have today.

Recruiters used to be required to do everything by confining guidelines, but this system failed to take advantage of an individual's strengths. We found that everybody needs the flexibility to function in the way they can best communicate the Air Force message. With more than 1,050 offices worldwide, we well know no two are alike in the environment our recruiters face; thus, we have to fairly weigh their efforts in their very unique situations and go from there.

While there will remain anecdotes from the past where recruiters may have felt as if they re-

ceived an appraisal rating lower than they deserved simply because they didn't produce, any markdowns given today are evaluated extensively on the merits of each case. As a matter of fact, we recently concluded a four-month examination where every such lower rating was reviewed at the headquarters before going final; without divulging the specifics, the few we received certainly deserved what they got.

The good news is recruiter efforts are understood and appreciated. Looking at the "whole person" — as does the rest of our Air Force — yields an honest appraisal of the individual and his or her efforts to accomplish our challenging mission and dispels the once true, but now outdated, adage that we "eat our own." So far, the results from operating this way have been gratifying.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

'Right,' from page 2

Force unique, it is driving. How many people adhere to the posted speed limits whether a policeman is there or not? How many of you buckle your seat belts all the time? Closer to home, how many people adhere to all the rules of flying safety, yet knowingly ignore funding or construction rules?

Why do these folks do these things? My logical mind can only come up with the answer that people today feel they are smart enough to make up their own minds on what is right and when it is right.

Traveling 15 or 20 miles above the speed limit is the right thing to do because they are the best drivers in the world and can handle their car even when that other best driver rolls

through a stop sign. Today's folks are just plain smarter and know what rules to follow and when. Well, I for one am not that smart! I don't know everything there is to know. I do know there are people smarter than I who design the cars and highways based on what's safe for me to travel, build products that protect me from potential hazards, and develop rules of society to allow me to go about my daily life in an orderly fashion.

So, what's right? I don't know. I'm just not smart enough to know. So until I do reach the right "guru" level, I guess I'll continue to plug along following the Air Force's Core Values the best I can with the understanding that what's right for me is right for me and what's right for you may be your left!

'Service,' from page 2

of life and morale for many people.

If your customers include students or trainees, are you open for business and available during the times most convenient to them?

If your shop periodically closes for "training days," are those days scheduled to minimally impact your customers? Better yet, could your office keep a skeleton crew on board while the others are trained?

If your unit has voice mail, how user-friendly is it? The first and easiest option should always be to speak with a person.

Is there more than one "expert" in your office to help customers? What happens when that person goes to lunch, is on leave or on TDY?

Are your form letters personal-

ized for your customers, or are they the faceless, fill-in-the-blank kind?

With our computers today we can take the extra few minutes to tailor your correspondence to show our people you're concerned about their situations or problems.

These are just a few of the many areas we will look at under the "Service-Way" concept. The Air Force is a retention service, and quality customer service will help us retain our number one asset — our people.

As members of the First Command, we are the first to touch the lives of virtually every member.

The initial impressions we make will last a long time. Let's show all of our airmen and their families that we truly care about them by improving the very basic part of their quality of life.

Actionline

Call 298-5351

personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely per-



Col. Jack Egginton
47 FTW commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Equal Opportunity	298-5400
FWA hotline	298-4170

Newslines

Pharmacy program

A new program is about to take effect for military retirees and their spouses age 65 and over. Special briefings are scheduled to be held today at 10 and 11 a.m. at the Operations Training Complex.

For more information, call Capt. Todd Smith at 298-6303.

Base blood drive

The South Texas Blood and Tissue Center will be collecting blood donations in the Fiesta Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today.

For more information, call Sabrina Pena at 298-5327.

Basketball shootout

A 3-point shootout is scheduled for Saturday at the XL Fitness Center. Registration for the event is at 10:30 a.m., and the competition starts at 11 a.m.

For more information, call Airman Gerson Hernandez at 298-5326.

Women's month activities

A Lunch and Learn: Ergonomics and You" activity will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday in the 47th Medical Group Training Room.

A Federal Women's Month luncheon will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at Club XL.

American Legion meeting

The Del Rio/Laughlin American Legion Post #298 will hold its regular meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at "The Barn" across from Laughlin's Main Gate. Members are asked to bring this year's dues.

Discussion will cover this year's activities and fund raisers. Anyone interested in veteran and military affairs and benefits is invited to attend. Active duty military are eligible for membership.

If you are currently active duty and honorable status, you are eligible to join.

For more information, call Murry Kachel at 298-2097 or visit www.delrio.com/~mkachel/al/index.htm.

Chiefs versus Eagles

The Chiefs/Eagles volleyball game is scheduled for Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at the XL Fitness Center gym. Proceeds will go to Operation Jingle, a program to help financially hurting airmen purchase Christmas gifts for their families.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Bruce Bond at 298-0576.

MEO reunion

The MEO Club 12th Annual Reunion will be held on March 31 at the base picnic grounds from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be games and activities for the entire family. A Bar-B-Que brisket lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost for lunch ticket is \$3 per person.

Call Hilda Vasquez at 298-5315 for tickets or more information.

Humanitarian award

Nominations for the 2001 Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Award should be submitted to Awards/Decorations in the 47th Mission Support Squadron by April 1.

For more information, call Elsa Saucedo at 298-5246.

Advisory meeting

The next HCAC Council meeting is scheduled for April 6 at 1 p.m. in the Wing Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

The HCAC is a forum for exchanging information between providers and consumers of health care at Laughlin.

For more information, call 298-6311.

Weight support group

The Health and Wellness Center will be offering a new support group called The Yo-Yo Club for anyone trying to lose weight or get into shape. The group will be starting April 11 and will be held

every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. in the Clinic Training Room. All are encouraged to come and bring a lunch.

This support group will be offering tips on good nutrition, exercise, behavior modification and stress prevention.

For more information on this group, call the HAWC at 298-6464.

Burger King toy recall

Burger King is recalling 400,000 "Rattling, Paddling Riverboat" toddler toys because of a potential choking hazard to young children.

The toys were distributed in Burger King Kid's Meals in January and February 2001. Metal pins with plastic caps that attach the paddle wheel to the riverboat toy can come out and pose a choking hazard.

Parents should take the toy away from children and call (800) 661-9173 for instructions on returning the toy for a free, replacement toy.

Information also is available at Burger King's web site at www.burgerking.com.

Commissary focus group

The commissary focus group is looking for volunteers to join. Focus group members meet to discuss how the commissary can better serve its customers.

For more information, call Roger Pastrano at 298-5822.

Workout program

The XL Fitness Center is sponsoring a self-directed workout program called "Laughlin Around the World in 365 Days." The program simulates traveling from one place to another by using various pieces of fitness equipment to get there. Prizes will be awarded.

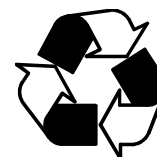
For more information, call Staff Sgt. Javier Aguirre at 298-5326.

Trap and skeet league

A trap and skeet league is ongoing every Sunday from noon until 3 p.m.

For more information, call Doug Peckham at 298-5830.

**Please recycle
this newspaper.**



'Court-martial,' from page 1

degree, and his commander had recently recommended him as a candidate for Officer Training School.

After announcement of the sentence, the airman was escorted to Lackland Air Force Base confinement facility to begin serving the two and a half months of confinement. Unless waived, his case will be reviewed automatically by the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals in Washington, D.C.

'Visit,' from page 1

submitted to the Congress is a pay raise for those who wear the uniform," he said. "I believe by focusing on our mission we can improve morale, but I know by paying folks more we can improve morale as well."

Capt. Dennis G. Scarborough, 95th Fighter Squadron assistant director of operations who also met with the president, said he seemed genuinely interested in military members' needs and concerns. "We talked primarily about housing, pay raises, the defense budget and overseas issues," said the captain. "He (the president) listened carefully to us and expressed support for taking care of the military and our families."

Staff Sergeant Amy R. Justice, a 325th Medical Group health services manager who had questions about manpower, also thought President Bush seemed determined to help the military. "We asked about increasing manning in the services," she said. "We told him that not having enough people sometimes meant doing more with less and that affects our morale. He said he had a team working on this issue and there would be a study to see if we need to boost our military manpower."

After his messages on housing, pay raises and military quality of life, President Bush had another message for the servicemembers gathered here and for those in uniform around the world.

"I'm proud of the men and women who wear our uniforms," Bush said. "I look forward to shaking your hands and looking you in the eye and thanking you for serving America. For those of you who I don't get to look in the eye ... thanks for serving America!"

(Courtesy of AETC News Service)

Air Force bio technicians join in cleanup of mercury contamination

By Master Sgt. Gene LaDoucer
15th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Air Force bioenvironmental engineering technicians here joined federal and state response teams to contain and clean up mercury contamination at a Honolulu community housing project March 12.

After the contamination was discovered, state officials began examining 260 units and surrounding common areas at the complex, where about 1,100 people reside.

Mercury can cause burns to the skin and eyes and, if inhaled or ingested, may cause more severe health problems.

A Hickam Bioenvironmental Engineering Emergency Response Team reported to the Hawaii Department of Health on-scene coordinator in the afternoon after the situation exceeded the capabilities of the DOH and the Honolulu fire department's hazardous materials team, said Maj. Kurt Lee, chief of the 15th Aeromedical Dental Squadron Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight.

"Our team has specialized mercury vapor detection equipment and the critical hazardous material emergency response experience needed by the state," Lee said. "Our people were initially tasked with surveying about 25 percent of the potentially contaminated housing units while the Navy Public Works and Pacific Environmental Corporation, a contracted environmental/emergency response firm, were tasked with other areas."

The initial Hickam response team members worked late into the evening. A second team



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Seyer

Air Force bioenvironmental engineering technicians here joined federal and state response teams to contain and clean up mercury contamination at a Honolulu community housing project March 12.

was recalled to continue support through early morning the next day in order to address the most critical health risk areas, Lee said. The work continued until the afternoon of March 13.

Children reportedly found the mercury over the weekend at an abandoned pumping station in the area of the housing complex. Fascinated by the silver-colored liquid, the youth took the mercury to their homes and shared it with friends.

On the following Monday the mercury problem first came to the attention of officials when a student brought a jar of the substance to a local elementary school. The school was closed and as many as 50 people, most of them children, were seen at local hospitals for treatment of mercury exposure, according to Honolulu police.

(Courtesy of Pacific Air Forces News Service)

Friday, the Border Eagle.
Wednesday, this newspaper:
www.af.mil/newspaper



Customer first: People are priority at commissary

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

Things are looking up for the Department of Defense's grocery chain as efforts to please customers and restructuring initiatives appear to be bearing fruit.

In fact, the Defense Commissary Agency sold more than \$5 billion worth of fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy products and other items last year, the most in sales since 1997, DeCA officials said.

That good news, combined with the implementation of an aggressive revitalization program, pleases Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr., DeCA's director since December 1999. He credits his organization's success to providing value to customers while reducing operating costs.

"Customers tell us they appreciate the money they save by shopping at our commissaries, and we're listening," Courter said. "Our 'Best Value' item program provides prices lower than what you can find downtown on either national brands or private labels."

Price comparisons report significant customer savings – last surveyed at 27 percent overall for most private-sector grocers – at DeCA's 287-

store worldwide chain, officials said. This can translate into more than \$2,000 in annual savings for a family of four.

Courter ordered a top-to-bottom cost and performance review when he arrived at DeCA. He closed some under-performing stores – normally smaller facilities with other commissaries nearby – which, according to Courter, will increase organizational efficiency. Such measures, he added, are not taken without consulting the affected military service, the Commissary Operating Board – whose members represent each of the services – the DoD staff and the Congress. Quality-of-life factors, such as the size of the active-duty population, whether the commissary location is overseas or remote, and its proximity to civilian stores and other commissaries, are the first considerations in determining whether and where to continue, establish or close a DeCA commissary, Courter said.

Other criteria, he noted, such as operating costs per dollar of sales and an installation's long-term future and patron demographics, are also considered in the process. As these conditions change, Courter said, DeCA must be flexible.

"We need to continually look at our distribution

of store hours, consider requests to open new stores, close existing ones and reconfigure others," he said, "all the while keeping within the appropriated dollars we have to run the system."

Improving customer service, he noted, is a constant DeCA goal. Courter said some stores have added the convenience of "grab-and-go" areas near their registers where hurried shoppers can quickly pick up certain items they may need. Other stores have been able to adjust their operating hours in response to customer demand, while focus groups that mirror the local customer base provide a steady stream of ideas for improvement at each commissary.

"Our customers – active duty, retirees and Reserve component members alike – want to shop in pleasant surroundings and in the shortest time possible, so we are improving the entire process," Courter said.

"I've asked our store directors and other key managers," he said, "to commit and be accountable to make sure we fully stock the shelves, offer great produce, take care of store appearance and keep in touch with our customers."

(Courtesy of Air Force Information Service)

**Safety
belts
save
lives.
Buckle
up.
*The life
you save
may be
your
own.***

Question of the week

How can you reflect a positive image of the Air Force?



"By performing my job at the highest level I can and ensuring that those I supervise see how I enjoy working for the Air Force every day."

Capt. Kelly Primus
47th Mission Support Squadron



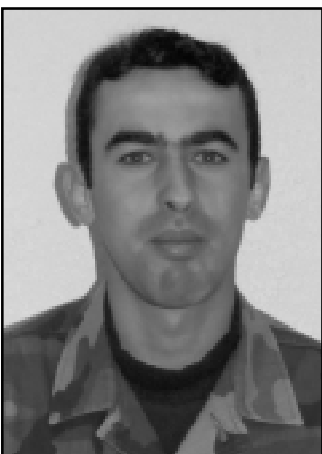
"I keep a positive outlook about what I'm doing."

2nd Lt. Kelly Baker
47th Mission Support Squadron



"Through my dress and appearance, my attitude and professionalism."

Staff Sgt. Adam Lewis
47th Flying Training Wing Command Post



"By following Air Force standards and regulations, you become a leader for the younger troops to follow."

Senior Airman Luis Pimentel
47th Security Forces Squadron

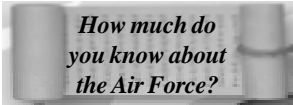


Please recycle this newspaper.

Air Force History

Q: What is the date that a military agency was given the authority to grant degrees to members of the enlisted force?

- (a) 1968
- (b) 1973
- (c) 1976



A: The correct answer is (c). President Gerald R. Ford approved legislation on July 14, 1976, authorizing the Community College of the Air Force to grant associate degrees for college-level academic study. Effective January 12, 1977, the United States Commissioner of Education authorized the commander of the Air Training Command to grant the Associate of Applied Science Degree to graduates of the Community College of the Air Force.

The XLer



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Heidi Poteat

47th Flying Training Wing Comptroller Flight

Hometown: Ramstein, Germany

Family: Husband, Rob; daughter, Rachel; son, Zachary

Time at Laughlin: Almost 6 years

Time in service: 3 years in May

Name one way to improve life at Laughlin:

Let's all join hands and sing.

Hobbies: I Like to read biographies, garden and work on stained glass.

Greatest accomplishment: A lasting marriage and good friendship with my husband

Bad habit: I'm a little stubborn.

Favorite beverage: Coffee

Favorite food: Candy bars

with nuts, pasta and bread
Motto: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? Any one of my friends or family. I enjoy their company and find them all very interesting.

News Herald
filler

Where are they now?

Name: 1st Lt. Michael Morman
Class/Date of graduation from Laughlin: Class 99-01, Oct. 28, 1999
Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at: KC-135R, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
Mission of your current aircraft? Provide aerial refueling to ensure global reach and power for America and its allies
What do you like most about your current aircraft? We are the spearhead of any deployment. Without us, it would be very difficult to have rapid response.
What do you dislike most about your current aircraft? The airframe is old.
What was the most important thing you learned at Laughlin besides learning to fly? Have fun with your crew. Crew morale can make or break a deployment.
What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin? Graduation. The day you have your dream pinned on your chest is unforgettable.
What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin? Take it all one day at a time. Before you know it, you will be operationally travelling the world.



Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Saturday

-Vigil Mass, 5 p.m.

Sunday

-Mass, 5 p.m.

-Mass, 9:30 a.m.

-Confession by appointment

-Little Rock Scripture Study, 11 a.m. in Chapel Fellowship Hall

Thursday

-Choir, 6 p.m.

-CCD, 11 a.m., Religious Education Building

Jewish

Max Stool, call 775-4519

Muslim

Dr. Mostafa Salama, call 768-9200.

Protestant

Sunday

- General worship, 11 a.m.

-Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. at the Religious Education Building

Monday

Student Wives' Fellowship, 7-9 p.m. Call 298-7365.

Wednesday

- Women's Bible Study, 12:30-2:15 p.m. at Chapel

-Choir, 7 p.m. at Chapel

Chapel Youth Group

Sunday

-5 p.m. Chapel Fellowship Hall

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

Why I joined the Air Force; why I stayed

Name: Staff Sgt. Rich Pritchard

Organization: 47th Flying Training Wing logistics planner

Hometown: Houston, Texas

His story: I was an aircraft maintenance technician and recently retrained into the Logistic Plans career field.



Pritchard

I separated from the Air Force in December 1996 after a six-year enlistment. I re-joined the Air Force in May 1998 for many reasons.

I guess the big reason is that the grass wasn't greener on the other side. I also missed being a part of the team. I felt proud when I was in the Air Force and liked what we stand for; I wanted to be a part of that again. Another reason was the benefits such as free medical, 30 days paid vacation, free sick leave, tuition assistance, consistent pay raises, job security and adventure.

Lessons learned, personal philosophy: The Air Force has as much, and in some areas more, to offer than most jobs on the outside. The Air Force's benefits are hard to beat.

Our medical program isn't problem-free, but neither is civilian medical treatment. But the difference in the Air Force is it doesn't cost us a dime. Our retirement is great and you don't have to pay a dime into it, yet you get 50 percent of your base pay after 20 years of service and don't have to wait until you are 65 to receive this benefit.

I believe it is only human nature to look at things negatively when things aren't going quite the way we would like them to. But if we can just step back and take a look at the big picture, overall outcome, and concentrate on the good, all the other things become unimportant.

Career goals: My first goal is to finish my CCAF degree and then make master sergeant before I retire.

Advice to first and second term airmen: The first four years are the longest and toughest, but only because it is a new way of life and you are learning a new career/job. I think it would be in your best interest to reenlist at least one more time because at this point you can kind of relax, you already have your 5-skill level, so you can enjoy your job, get involved with training other airmen in your shop, take time for higher education, and concentrate on making rank. When that second enlistment is up and you decide at that time you still aren't happy then you can separate and know that you at least you gave it a try and did more for your country than most people do.

But if you like it, which I am sure the majority will, you will be that much closer to retirement, have a secure job and know that what you're doing is not only benefiting yourself and your family, but your country.



New equipment

Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Mike Seltzer (right), Paramount representative, and Hank Bowman (left), Health and Wellness Center exercise physiologist, look on as Staff Sgt. John Fastinger, XL Fitness Center sports director, tries out new equipment at the XL Fitness Center Tuesday. The XL Fitness Center recently purchased 19 new pieces of Paramount Advanced Performance System equipment to replace the older Nautilus equipment. For more information on this new equipment, call the XL Fitness Center staff at 298-5251.

Intramural basketball standings

<u>Team</u>	<u>Win</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Points for</u>	<u>Points against</u>
87 FTS	7	0	430	268
OSS #1	7	2	433	366
Med Gp	7	2	387	311
LCSAM	7	2	306	250
CES	5	4	415	378
84/85 FTS	4	4	313	276
CS/CONS/				
SVS	4	5	425	419
86 FTS	4	5	239	278
OSS #2	3	6	241	335